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Marcua Vaden, Treasurer Democratic Party of Arkansas 1300 West Capitol Avenue Little Rock, AR 72201

AUG 2 1 2002

Identification Number:

C00024372

Reference:

May Monthly Report (4/1/02-4/30/02)

Dear Mr. Vaden:

This letter is prompted by the Commission's preliminary review of the report(s) referenced above. The review raised questions concerning certain information contained in the report(s). An itemization follows:

Schedule A supporting Line 15 of your report discloses a payment(s) from a federal candidate committee(s) for goods and/or services provided by your committee. 11 CFR §100.7(a)(1)(iii)(A) states that "...the provision of any goods or services without charge or at a charge which is less than the usual and normal charge for such goods or services is a contribution" Examples of goods and services include equipment, supplies, personnel, membership lists and mailing lists. The term "usual and normal charge" for goods is defined as "...the price of those goods in the market from which they ordinarily would have been purchased at the time of the contribution". The usual and normal charge for services is defined as "...the hourly or piecework charge for the services at a commercially reasonable rate prevailing at the time the services were rendered." [1] CFR §100.7(a)(1)(iii)(B)

Please clarify whether your committee assessed the usual and normal charge for the goods and/or services you provided to the federal candidate committee(s) and explain the steps your committee took in determining the amount(s) charged. If your committee provided the goods and/or services at less than the usual and normal charge, the difference between the two is considered to be an in-kind contribution by your committee to the federal candidate committee(s) and is subject to the limits set forth at 2 U.S.C. §441a. (11 CFR §100.7(a)(1)(iii)(A))

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-Schedule A of your report (pertinent portion(s) attached) discloses one or more contributions which appear to exceed the limits set forth in the Act. 2 U.S.C. §441a(f) and 11 CFR §110.1(d) prohibit a committee and its affiliates from receiving any contribution from another political committee or person in excess of \$5,000 per calendar year.

If any apparently excessive contribution in question was incompletely or incorrectly disclosed, you must smead your original report with the clarifying information.

If any contribution you received exceeds the limits, you may have to refund the excessive amount. The funds can be retained if within 60 days of receipt, (1) the excessive amount was properly reattributed to another person, such as a joint account holder, by obtaining signed written authorizations from each person making the contribution pursuant to 11 CFR 110.1(k)(3), and (2) the treasurer informs the person making the contribution that he or she may request the return of the excessive portion of the contribution if it is not intended to be a joint contribution. Any request from a donor for a refund must be honored.

Alternatively, the funds can be retained if within 60 days of receipt you (1) transferred the excessive amount to an account not used to influence federal elections, and (2) provided written notice to the person making the contribution of the option of receiving a refund. Any request from a donor for a refund must be honored.

If the foregoing conditions for reattributions or transfers to a non-federal account were not met within 50 days of receipt, the excessive amount must be refunded.

Please inform the Commission of your corrective action immediately in writing and provide a photocopy of your check for any transfer-out or refund. In addition, any reattributions should be reported as memo entries on Schedule A of the report covering the period during which the authorization for the reattribution is received. Any transfers out or refunds should be disclosed on Schedule B supporting Line 22 or 28 of the report during which the transaction was made.

Although the Commission may take further legal action regarding the acceptance of an excessive contribution(s), prompt action by your committee to seek reattribution, transfer-out or refund the excessive amount will be taken into consideration.

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-Your report includes multiple Schedules H1, with varying ballot composition ratios. Please amend your report to provide only one Schedule H1. Schedule H1 must be filed with the first report each year for National, State and Local party committees, and with the first report filed in the two-year election cycle for Separate Segregated Funds and Non-connected committees. All shared administrative and generic voter drive costs incurred during the two-year cycle must be allocated according to this ratio, onless the federal account elects to pay a higher percentage of its cost. 11 CFR §106.5(b)(2), (d)(1), (d)(2) and 11 CFR §\$104.10(b)(1)(ii)(B) and 106.6(c)

-Itemized disbutsements must include a brief statement or description of why the disbutsements were made. Please amend Schedule(s) H4 of your report to clarify the following description(s): "contract labor", "consulting" and "consultation". For further guidance regarding acceptable purposes of disbutsements, please refer to 11 CFR §104.3(b)(3).

-Schedule H4 discloses payments made to credit card companies for shared federal and non-federal activity. Please be advised that these payments must identify as memo entries, the original vendors from which you have purchased an item or service <u>regardless of the amount</u>. Please amend your report by providing the name and mailing address of the original vendor, along with the date, amount and purpose of each expenditure. 11 CFR §104.10.

It has come to the attention of the Federal Election Commission that the reports you have filed during the current election cycle do not reflect the appropriate coverage dates for quarterly filing status. Please be advised of the filing dates and coverage periods for the 2001-2002 election cycle and fill in the appropriate dates on Line 5 of the Summary Page.

Report Type	Coverage Dates	Due Date					
Mid-Year Year End April Quarterly July Quarterly October Quarterly 12 Day Pre-General 30 Day Post-General Year End	1/1/01-6/30/01	July 31, 2001 January 31, 2002 April 15, 2002 July 15, 2002 October 15, 2002 October 24, 2002 December 5, 2002 January 31, 2003					

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-Your report disclosed a category of financial activity that has been reflected on the wrong line of the Detailed Summary Page. transfers from candidate committees should be properly disclosed on a separate Schedule A, supporting Line 12 of the Detailed Summary Page. Please refer to the instructions contained on the forms to determine the proper categorization when preparing your next filing.

A response or amendment to your original report(s) correcting the above problem(s) should be filed with the Federal Election Commission within fifteen (15) days of the date of this letter. Electronic filers must file amendments (to include statements, designations and reports) in an electronic format and must submit an amended report in its entirety, rather than just those portions of the report that are being amended. If you need assistance, please feel free to contact me on our toll-free number, (800) 424-9530 (at the prompt press 1, then press 2 to reach the Reports Analysis Division). My local number is (202) 694-1130.

Sincerely,

Nicholas T. Ebinger

Most cus

Reports Analyst

Reports Analysis Division

SCHEDULE A (FEC Form 3X) ITEMIZED RECEIPTS

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